

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the remarks included in the 11/20/2006 Office Action response. Claims 19-21 have been amended, and new claim 32 has been added. Consequently, claims 19-23 and 32 are pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 USC § 112

Claims 19-23 were rejected for lack of enablement and indefiniteness. The Office Action indicated that the rotation of a key and the subsequent turning of the key “back to the locked position,” as recited in independent claim 19, was not supported by the specification. The Office Action further questioned how the lock could remain locked if the method includes rotating the key and turning the key back to the lock position. The Office Action also noted a lack of antecedent basis for “the locked position.”

Without conceding a lack of sufficient support in the specification for the claim as previously written, claim 19 has been amended to recite rotating the key “such that said key cylinder is rotated from a first position to a second position,” and “turning the key and the key cylinder back to the first position.” One example of this recited feature is described, for example, in paragraph [0040] of the specification, which states that “when the proper key is inserted into the key cylinder 21 and turned counter-clockwise ... [t]he number dial 23 can then be rotated to another position relative to the entire dial assembly 100,” and “[t]he key cylinder 21 can then be rotated back to center, and the lock will have a different combination.” As such, the specification provides enablement for the recited elements of the claims. Also, the amendment to claim 19 should overcome any lack of antecedent basis.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102, 35 USC § 103(a)

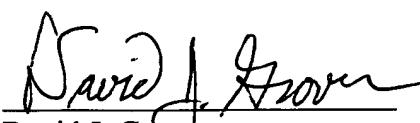
Claims 19, 20, 22 and 23 were rejected as being unpatentable over either one of Walby (US Pat. No. 6,708,538) and Berkowitz (US Pat. No. 3,395,557). Claim 21 was rejected as being unpatentable over either one of Walby and Berkowitz in view of Hermann (US Pat. No. 3,383,866).

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 19, as amended, is not anticipated by, or obvious in view of, any of the above cited references, as features of the claim are not shown or suggested in the cited references. For example, amended claim 19 recites rotating a user graspable number dial relative to a user graspable tumbler dial. None of the above cited references disclose or suggest a lock having a tumbler dial that is graspable by the user. In Walby, the dial cam arrangement 32A (identified by the Office Action as a tumbler dial) is an internal component, as shown, for example, in Figure 4. In Berkowitz, a dial 62 and disk 112 are disconnected from a sleeve 128 (see Figure 14) to change the combination, the sleeve 128 also being an internal component. As such, claim 19 is patentable over the cited references and is in condition for allowance. Original claims 20-23 and new claim 32 are also patentable over the cited references at least based on direct dependence on claim 19 and are in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims of this application is respectfully solicited. Furthermore, if the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number. If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 03-0172, our order no. 27475/06642.

Respectfully submitted,

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